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## **Speaking in Tongues**

I Cor 14:40

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

We are looking at one of the more controversial subjects among professing Christians today – the gift of tongues.

The Scriptures should always back up any doctrine that we believe.

We do not base our doctrines on our experiences because we can be deceived.

We are going to look at each time when tongues are used or talked about in Scripture. I think the Bible will make it all plain.

We will then compare it with what is going on in many churches today.

I want to be clear, in the Bible there definitely was a real gift of tongues. We will see that it was intended for a specific purpose as a sign gift.

God has given us a number of Gifts of the Spirit. Many of these are intended for us to use today in our Christian life, but the Sign Gifts were temporary in nature. We will look into that later.

A little modern history:

The term “Pentecostal” dates to the early part of the 20th century and refers to a desire on the part of some to recapture the miracles of Pentecost and the book of Acts.

They decided that they wanted the same gifts that the early church experienced.

The origin of the “Charismatic” movement is more recent and describes the ecumenical tongues-speaking movement that has spread through non-Pentecostal denominations, including the Roman Catholic Church, since the 1960s

Some of you may not be sure what I am even talking about when I say “tongues.”

In many churches people are encouraged to let themselves loose and to speak out in sounds that they do not understand. They say that God is giving them utterance and they are talking a heavenly language. Sometimes these meetings can be very disorderly and loud as they are trying to build people up to a frenzy.

We will see that the Modern-day Charismatic movement has misinterpreted the meaning of tongues.

In doing so, they have allowed some things to happen in their churches that are very disruptive to people spiritually.

People are taught to live for the “experience” instead of taking time to find out what God’s Word says and do it.

They end up with a very shallow Christianity.

This is not a doctrine that the Bible spends a lot of time on because, as we will see, it was only intended for a short period of time and then passed away.

There are only **three** places recorded in God's Word where tongues are actually spoken. We will look at each of these passages. We will also look at the church in Corinth. This is the New Testament church where they mentioned speaking in tongues. (and they were rebuked for misusing it)

### **One thing to understand:**

The book of Acts is a historical narrative covering a crucial period of time from the infant church to Paul's third missionary journey ending with Paul in prison some thirty years later.

It is a transitional book where we go from the synagogue to the church, from law to grace, and from a body of Jewish believers to the body of Christ made up of Jews and Gentile believers alike.

## **I. Acts 2.**

V1-11

Remember in Acts 1:8 they had been told that they would be endowed with power and they would be witnesses.

120 disciples met in the upper room and prayed.

Then at Pentecost the power came.

Pentecost means fiftieth and it refers to the fiftieth day after the Passover.

There were people gathered from all the known world. V5

This was an opportunity to witness to them.

Peter and the others went out and began to speak.

The people were amazed because each one heard in his own language – 16 different languages are given.

God makes it clear that they spoke in normal human languages.

The word translated as tongues is the word “glossa” which just means languages.

Verse 6-8, 11 explains the content of the tongues-speaking.

What did these Jews hear?

Did they hear nonsense syllables?

Did they hear ecstatic utterances? (usually unintelligible speechlike sounds in a trance like state.)

Did they hear unintelligible gibberish?

No, they heard "the wonderful works of God" v11

God gave them the ability to share the Gospel in languages that were unknown to them, but they were known to the various nationalities that were present.

Can you imagine how wonderful this opportunity was – getting the Gospel to these people that would take it back with them all across the known world.

### **The key is that the people understood.**

The twelve spoke, and men from at least sixteen different lands heard and understood in their own languages.

No interpreter was needed since every man heard the message in his own native dialect (verses 8,11).

What was the result? 3000 were saved v41

Just to make things clear.

At the time of the King James translation (1611), the word "tongues" simply meant "Languages."

[Most editions of the Authorized King James Version contain these words on the title page: "The Holy Bible containing the Old and New Testaments translated out of the original tongues."]

Today it would be more natural to say, "translated out of the original languages."]

Both mean the exact same thing.

This can be seen in Acts 2:8 and in Revelation 9:11.

Revelation 9:11

And they had a king over them, *which is* the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the **Hebrew tongue** is Abaddon, but in the **Greek tongue** hath *his* name Apollyon.

If we said “language” each time we read the word “tongue” it would take away a lot of the confusion that people have.

That is exactly how people did read it until the Pentecostal/Charismatic movement created confusion.

It was definitely a miraculous gift of God – BUT they were languages.

As Peter and the others spoke, each man heard in his own language.

Everyone from all these different lands, people who couldn't communicate with each other, all understood.

There were people who needed to hear the Gospel who spoke a variety of languages that the apostles did not speak.

This was an opportunity to share the Gospel and see people saved who would be scattered across the world as they went home.

Something else to notice. Who did the speaking in tongues?

Was everyone doing it? No, only the Apostles.

None of the 3000 that were saved that day received this gift or spoke in tongues.

These tongues were intended as a sign to the Jews that were assembled.

They confirmed the new truth that was being preached by Peter as being genuinely from God.

That is an example of Biblical tongues.

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How does this event in history compare with the present day teaching of the Charismatics?

- Did they speak in unknown tongues?

a. The languages that the disciples spoke were certainly unknown to them.

b. However, there is nothing to indicate that they spoke some "heavenly language" known only to God!

c. The fact is that what they said was understood by those who heard as being intelligent words spoken in their native language. Acts 2:8

- Charismatic churches today tell people that this is something to seek after. Did this experience come from them earnestly seeking it?

The disciples were obedient to the command of Christ in Luke 24:49.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

The Lord had said, "...tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high."

They may have been assembled in anticipation of the promise of God, but no where are we told that they were asking or seeking earnestly for some experience.

Scripture tells us that they were in "one accord" and that the filling of the Spirit came suddenly.  
(SEE OUR STUDY ON THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

I mentioned earlier that this was a sign gift.

Let's look at that before we get to the next instance of tongues in the Book of Acts.

Just a reminder. In the Bible when it uses the word “tongues” what is it referring to?

It is referring to languages that someone could understand.

It never refers to gibberish.

Tongues Are a Sign

1. To the Jews

**1 Corinthians 1:22**

<sup>22</sup> For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:

**Mark 16:17-19**

<sup>17</sup> And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;

<sup>18</sup> They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.

<sup>19</sup> So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

Jesus was about to ascend to heaven and He told His disciples some of the things that were about to happen.

These would be signs that proved that the message was true and came from God.

2. To unbelievers

**1 Corinthians 14:22**

<sup>22</sup> Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying *serveth* not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

God used this gift of tongues as a sign.

The sign gifts showed that the new message that they had was from God.

This was in fulfillment of an Old Testament prophecy.

**1 Corinthians 14:21**

<sup>21</sup> In the law it is written, With *men of* other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

Let's look at the second instance of tongues in the Bible.

**II. Acts 10** (read whole chapter)

A. The Time.

1. Much has taken place in the first nine chapters of Acts.
2. The church at Jerusalem has grown through various testings both within and without.
3. Stephen has been stoned, the church is scattered, Philip preaches in Samaria and to the Ethiopian eunuch, and Saul is converted on the road to Damascus.
4. Perhaps as much as 10 years have passed by the time God tells Peter to go to Cornelius in this tenth chapter.

B. The place.

1. The house of Cornelius, a centurion.
2. Cornelius lived in Caesarea, which was about 60 miles from Jerusalem.

C. The persons involved.

1. Peter and certain brethren from Joppa. v23
2. Cornelius; a gentile, Roman soldier, in charge of 100 men in the Italian band or regiment.

- a. Cornelius was a devout man, one who feared God, gave alms, and prayed to God.
  - b. He was a semi-proselyte to Judaism, but he had not gone to the extent of circumcision.
  - c. He was not a Christian.
3. Also gathered together in his house were many family and friends.

D. What happened?

- 1. Peter came in the house and spoke with Cornelius. v25-33
  - a. Peter explained why he had come to Cornelius' home.
  - b. Cornelius explained why he had called for Peter.
- 2. Peter preached the gospel to them that were in the house. v34-43

Peter preached the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ to them.

The whole purpose for him coming was that they might be saved. 11:14

- 3. As soon as he mentions in v43 that they needed to believe, then each one believed and the Holy Spirit fell upon them. v44
- 4. They spoke with tongues and magnified God. v46
- 5. The Jewish believers were astonished at what they had observed. v45
- 6. Peter gave them further instruction and remained with them for a few days. v47-48

E. How does this compare with the present day teaching of the Charismatics?

In Acts 11, Peter recounts to the Jews what happened.

When Peter returned to Jerusalem there were some who were upset that he went to the Gentiles. In Ch 11 he gives his account of what happened. (Read v 1-4)

Did the people understand the language (tongues) that were spoken?

I think Acts 11:15 is a key verse.

11:15 “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, **as on us at the beginning.**”

The Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues **just as** the Jews had in the beginning.

Acts 10 was considered by these Jews as a repeat performance of Acts 2.

They understood them to be magnifying God. 10:46

Remember, these were Gentiles which simply means they were from nations other than Israel.

What was the name of their group? The Italian Band

I wonder where they were from and what language they normally spoke?

The Gentiles spoke in a language that the Jews didn't know, but did the Jews in the group understand?

Did they speak Hebrew? Possibly.

God was confirming that the Gospel was for both Jew and Gentile and so was the Holy Spirit.

Note the conclusion of the church at Jerusalem. 11:18

**Acts 11:18**

<sup>18</sup> When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

Note Peter's recollection of the event. cf. Acts 11:15-17

V17 They had the same gift as on Pentecost

In Acts 10 Gentiles spoke with tongues and saved Jews were present as witnesses.

To these Jews the gift of tongues served as **an outward evidence** that the Gentiles had been Spirit-baptized into the body of Christ just as the Jews were in Acts 2.

Thus, tongues served to indicate that the Gentiles were accepted by God and that God's program was reaching out unto the nations.

The Jews were going to need some definite proof that the Gentiles were acceptable. That is what happened on this day.

Tongues served no evangelistic purpose in Acts 10.

The evangelism was already done by Peter *prior* to the tongues-speaking.

This served as a sign, but definite languages that were known to the Jews were spoken.

### III. Acts 19 v1-8

#### A. The Time.

1. Paul was on his third missionary journey.
2. This was nearly twenty years after the events of Acts 2.

#### B. The Place.

1. Ephesus, a city in Asia.
2. The same city spoken of in the book of Revelation and elsewhere.

#### C. The persons involved.

1. The apostle Paul.
2. Certain "disciples", about 12.
  - a. They were not disciples of Jesus Christ.
  - b. They were disciples of John the Baptist.
  - c. **They were people in transition who were still waiting for the Messiah to come.**

Remember that the book of Acts is a historical narrative covering a crucial period of time from the infant church to Paul's third missionary journey ending with Paul in prison some thirty years later.

It is a transitional book where we go from the synagogue to the church, from law to grace, and from a body of Jewish believers to the body of Christ made up of Jews and Gentile believers alike.

These people were mixed up in the transition.

#### D. What happened?

1. Paul questioned them. v1-3
  - a. "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"
  - b. They answered, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost."
  - c. Paul then asked them, "Unto what then were ye baptized?"
  - d. They answered, "Unto John's baptism."

In conversing with these 'disciples' at Ephesus, Paul evidently sensed that they were quite incomplete in their knowledge.

They, like Apollos before, essentially knew only the ministry of John the Baptist.

It might be inferred that they had even been influenced by Apollos in coming to their imperfect knowledge. (Apollos had spent some time earlier in Ephesus preaching John's baptism.)

Paul therefore questioned these Jewish ‘disciples’ if they had received the Holy Ghost *since* they believed. (The idea is not of some sort of second blessing or filling of the Holy Spirit after salvation as advanced by modern Pentecostal or charismatic groups.)

Rather, Paul wanted to know if they had been saved in the first place.

The reception of the Holy Spirit is automatic in the New Testament when someone believes.

The indwelling ministry of the Holy Ghost after salvation is a clear proof of salvation.

Their reply was insightful. Though they claimed the name ‘disciples,’ they did not even know *if* there was a Holy Ghost.

Paul had pretty much received his answer.

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It sounds as if they were baptized without even understanding fully what they were doing.

They were sincere, but they didn’t know what they did or why.

However, he asked them one additional question. “Unto what then were ye baptized?”

Their reply was John’s baptism. It was something that went along with John the Baptist.

Paul then explained that John’s baptism was an identification with his message of repentance in preparation of the coming King.

It ultimately was a symbol of believing in the coming of Christ.

They, like Apollos, had never heard the ‘rest of the story’ of Christ’s work, crucifixion, and resurrection.

2. Now, Paul understood their problem. v4

a. He explained the purpose of John the Baptist's ministry to them.

b. And that the Messiah had come, "Christ Jesus".

3. They were then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. v5

Here is a clear scriptural example of a believer being ‘re-baptized.’ Their former ‘baptism’ was not scriptural in that they had not as yet trusted Jesus Christ. Now upon being saved, they followed the Lord scripturally in the water of baptism.

(In truth, they were still only baptized once.)

4. Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. v6

Very little is said about tongues-speaking in Acts 19.

Verse 6 states that the gift of the Spirit was accompanied by the sign-gift of tongues.

*Prophecy* (the speaking forth of the Word of God--1 Corinthians 14:3) is also mentioned in connection with tongues (verse 6).

Prophecy required understanding. (We will see that next week.)

They spoke in languages that people understood.

Every indication is that tongues in Ch 19 was essentially the same as tongues in Acts 2 and Acts 10.

As at Pentecost and Cornelius’ household, this made it clear that God’s hand was upon the message of Christ.

This sign confirmed to these men the validity of the new truth that they were hearing.

1. Pentecost was a sign to the Jews that they could accept Christ as their Messiah.
2. Cornelius and his men were a sign to the Jews that Gentiles could be saved.
3. These men were given the tongues to show that Christ truly was the fulfillment of the message of John the Baptist.

Conclusion: Of the only 3 times we find anyone in Scripture speaking with tongues, none of these events are in line with what is being taught in the present day Charismatic movement.

Remember, our standard by which we evaluate anything is the Word of God, and the facts do not support their teaching.

God was at work in each of these situations.

He was bringing together all sorts of people into a new program, the Local Church, through which He will evangelize the entire world.

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## IV. Compare Modern Tongues With Biblical Times

Now, let's look at some common questions that people have about tongues and compare what is done today with the Scriptural examples.

### Acts 2:4-8

The Bible gives us three incidences of tongues being spoken.

This was intended as a sign gift to confirm to these people the validity of the new truth that they were hearing.

In each case, only real languages were used and in each case people understood the real languages.

1. In Acts 2, Peter and the others spoke and "every man heard them speak in his own language."  
Acts 2:6  
Pentecost was a sign to the Jews that they could accept Christ as their Messiah.

Ten years later:

2. In Acts 10, as soon as Cornelius and his men heard the Gospel and got saved they spoke in tongues (a language) that the Jews with Peter could understand.  
"For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." Acts 10:46 (They understood that their words magnified God.)  
Cornelius and his men were a sign to the Jews that Gentiles could be saved.

Ten years later:

3. In Acts 19 some men who had been baptized with John's baptism but that did not know of Christ. Paul leads them to the Lord and baptizes them.  
"and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." Acts 19:6  
To prophecy is to deliver a message from God that people can understand.  
These men were given the tongues to show that Christ truly was the fulfillment of the message of John the Baptist.

Those are the three times that we see this actually done in Scripture. It doesn't appear that it was done often.

This has **no resemblance** to what we see in churches today.

In all of Paul's epistles we only see one church where it was recorded.

What kind of church was Corinth? Were they spiritually strong?

No, they were carnal and unable to be taught spiritual meat, I Cor 3:1-3.

Before we go on, we need to explain one of the terms that is used in I Cor 14 - What was an "unknown tongue?"

Many people have been confused about this but the answer is simple and it explains the chapter as you read it.



Six times in that chapter this phrase is used and it is used nowhere else in Scripture.

The assumption that many Charismatic churches have is that this is some heavenly language that is known only to God.

This answer ignores the context of the chapter and the evidence of the rest of Scripture.

(Only real languages were used in Acts. We determine doctrine by following the clearest verses on a subject.)

Paul is just referring to a genuine language that is not known to all of those present when it is spoken.

Example: English is probably a known tongue to you, but Chinese may not be. It would be an “unknown tongue” to you.

If someone stood up in church on Sunday and spoke Chinese, then it is likely that only God would understand what was said.

If there were a few there that did understand Chinese, then the rule was that someone had to interpret for everyone else.

Those that heard and understood Chinese heard a known language.

Those that heard and did not understand were hearing an unknown language.

Another word that we need to know that makes all this clear is the word prophecy.

Prophecy was the proclaiming of God’s Word.

Sometimes it was the foretelling of things to come, but mostly it was the forthtelling of the Word of God.

A necessary part of that is **understanding**.

If there is no understanding then the Word was not proclaimed.

That is why it would be better for 5 words to be spoken in a known language than 10,000 in an unknown language.

I Corinthians 14 (Read v1-25 – Paul takes this entire chapter to emphasize the superiority of prophesying over tongues. Proclaiming God’s Word in a way that could be understood was the most important thing. If people do not understand it is worthless.)

V1-5, 9, 19 all show that understanding was most important.)

Paul here gives some firm guidelines of how that the gift of tongues was to be practiced properly.

He also gives some perspective. Because of the carnal nature of the people in that church, tongues were being used improperly and in a fleshly manner.

They were overemphasizing the gift of tongues, so Paul needed to set some things in order.

Paul makes sure to show the superiority of prophecy and to show that tongues was the least of the gifts.

### **Guidelines for the Use of Tongues.** (v27-35)

The proper use of the TRUE gift.

One with the gift of languages (or tongues) would deliver a message in a language unknown to him, but known to someone present.

The message then would reach that individual, and the one with the gift of interpretation would interpret for the edification of the entire congregation. V27

**If no one could interpret for all of the others, then no tongues were to be spoken. V28**

(Remember, we are dealing with real languages here.)

#### **1. Tongues Were To Be Used One at a Time v27**

a. "...let it be by two, or at the most three..."

b. There was a definite limit placed upon how many were to use the gift.

c. This principle is nearly always violated by the modern day Charismatics.

d. Many times everyone in the group is speaking in what they call "tongues", however God will never work in opposition to His Word!

e. "...and that by course..."

That means each person was to wait his turn.

f. They were not to be speaking in these languages all at the same time.

g. This was what was happening in the church at Corinth (v23) and created a confusing atmosphere contrary to true worship.

h. It is also what happens in the modern day Charismatic meetings when the groups begin to babble all at once.

## **2. Tongues Were Only to be Used if There Was an Interpreter v27-28**

a. "...and let one interpret."

b. Only one is to interpret, not two, three, or five--just one!

c. The interpretation was for the benefit of the rest of the congregation that they might understand the message.

d. Only one interpretation was needed.

e. "...no interpreter...keep silence in the church..."

f. If there was no one there who could interpret the message for everyone else, then the church could not be edified.

g. **Every one of these principles** are violated in Charismatic meetings today in the exercise of the false gift of tongues.

## **3. All Was to be Orderly v33, 40**

a. "God is not the author of confusion, but of peace..."

b. The one word that characterized the worship service at Corinth, as well as most charismatic meetings today, was "confusion"!

c. Not only mental confusion but also disorderly behavior.

## **4. Tongues Were Not To Be Spoken By Women. v34-35**

1. The woman's silence. (v34)

a. This isn't a cultural statement only applicable to the church at Corinth.

b. Note: v33b "...as in all churches of the saints."

c. This is to be the standard in all churches, just as much as the preceding exhortations.

d. The context of the passage is speaking with tongues.

e. The proper use of tongues was to instruct people in God's truth.

f. So this instruction is not cultural, but is by Divine design.

### **1 Timothy 2:11-14**

11 Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.

12 But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.

13 For Adam was first formed, then Eve.

14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.

2. The woman's shame. (v35)

a. For a woman to violate this Biblical principle by teaching or preaching in church is a "shame".

b. It is a perversion of God's plan and purpose for women.

Once again we see a clear distinction between Biblical policy and Charismatic practice.

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## **Some Other Facts About Tongues From I Corinthians**

1. Not all believers were to have the gift of tongues.

I Cor 12:29-30

This goes against what many groups say today.

They take the gift that Paul mentioned as the least and focus the most attention on it. Our goal is to focus our attention on proclaiming God's Word as clearly as we possibly can. I think that is in obedience to the commands of God.

2. Paul said the gift of tongues would cease.  
I Cor 13:8-13

Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. -- 1 Cor. 13:8

Paul says that the prophecies that he and others received would stop. Tongues would cease, according to this passage. The knowledge, as we understand it was the specific facts revealed to the early church in the absence of a completed Bible.

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. -- 1 Cor. 13:9

They knew in part and prophesied in part because they only had the partial revelations and prophecy and knowledge to work with in the early church, for they did not have a completed New Testament.

But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.  
-- 1 Cor. 13:10

Remember that the purpose of the sign gifts was to confirm new truth. When the New Testament was completed, there was no new truth that needed to be confirmed. The tongues and prophecy had fulfilled the purpose for which they were given. Nothing is to be added to or taken away from God's Word.

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The reason that there is controversy today is that many people are trusting their experiences and putting them above the clear message of the Word of God.

You will not see the Biblical gift of tongues used in any church today.

- There is no new –extra-Biblical truth to be revealed.
- They are not speaking in understandable languages.
- Also, every rule that God gave for tongues is broken.

Things that are different are not the same.

What is happening in churches is not what was happening in the Bible.

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I'll close with this: If what is being done in the churches disagrees totally with **every** rule that was given about tongues in the Bible, then what is the source of their tongues?

Where do they come from?

There are only three options:

**A. Modern-day "tongues" may be satanic or demonic in origin.**

Please do not misunderstand me here.

I am **NOT** saying that **ALL** "tongues-speaking" is of the devil and anyone who is involved must be demon possessed.

However, we must realize that every false religion in the world was started because of some lie given by Satan.

False religions are known for their practice of "tongues".

Eskimoes, jungle tribes, Tibetan monks, as well as many other pagan religions incorporate "tongues". It is also found among those who practice the occult. What they are doing is not a gift of the Spirit, but it is the same as what is done in some churches.

The second option is:

**B. Tongues is a learned behavior.**

Today's so-called tongues speaking is NOT, with the exception of the above, a supernatural experience. It is not a miracle and no real language is spoken, a person just learns how to do it. There are books that teach how to do it. They say you start out with "baby-tongues" and as you get used to it you speak more fluently.

This is the most common explanation for what is occurring in the Charismatic movement today.

Note: In the book "How to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit" by Gordon Lindsay.

- a. Many individuals have received the wonderful anointing of the Spirit and all they lack, to enjoy the full emersion is some instruction on yielding their tongue.
- b. Often such persons when properly instructed, will suddenly within a few minutes, burst forth in a clear language...

Within the Charismatic movement, there is a tremendous amount of peer-pressure to be one of the "haves", and a shame to be one of the "have-nots".

**C. Tongues can be psychological.**

The "tongues" speaker can go into motor automatism. That is the clinical term for when a person has a radical detachment from his conscious surroundings. Motor automatism results in disassociation of nearly all voluntary muscles from conscious control.

If you have ever seen a person at a concert of their favorite singer or group.

- a. Think of how people reacted to the Beatles when they first began to gain popularity.
- b. Others reacted in a similar fashion to Elvis and others.

If you have ever seen when someone was "slain in the spirit" it is similar to that. (Another non-Biblical term.)

A Biblical example of being slain in the spirit would be Ananias and Sapphira.

What we must understand is this:

- a. What is happening today is not the exercise of the Biblical gift of tongues.
- b. There are many explanations for such bizarre behavior.
- c. We need to be aware of what really happened in the Bible as far as tongues and not be fooled by what is going on.

Most churches, even if they do not believe in modern tongues, would not take a stand against it. In doing so, they are allowing false doctrine that creates weak, shallow Christians to spread.